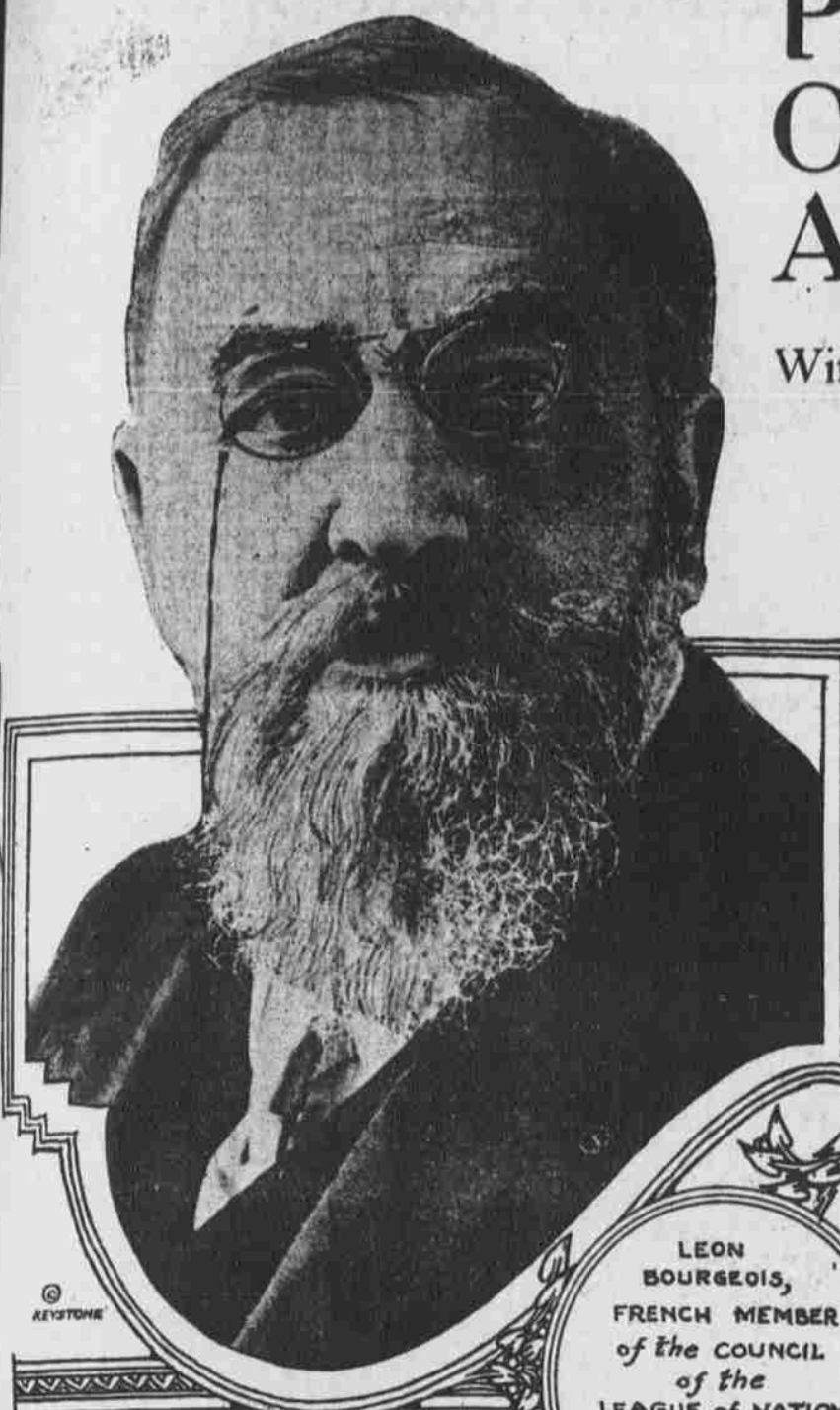


# Paul Deschanel, New President Of France, a Striking Personality And a Friend of the United States

Wife a Woman of Wealth and Culture, So Official Life in Paris for Next Decade Promises to Be Brilliant—Cabinet Formed by Millerand, the New Premier, Probably Provisional With a New One Named by Briand, Clemenceau's Rival, Once Poincare Turns Over the Government in February

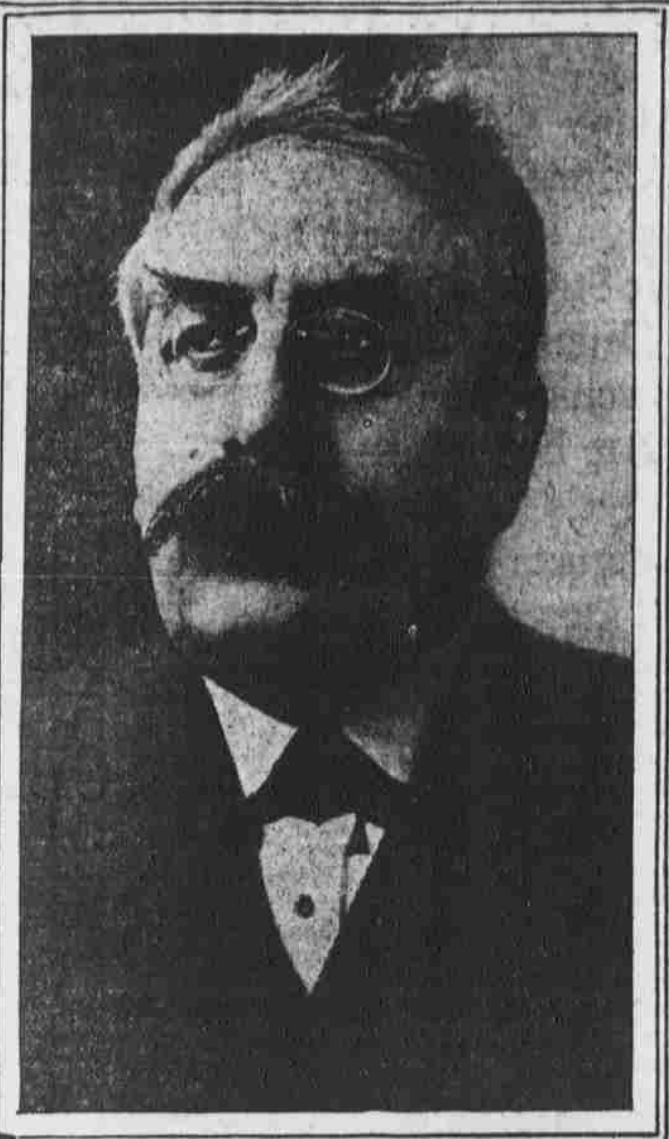


LEON BOURGEOIS, FRENCH MEMBER of the COUNCIL of the LEAGUE of NATIONS, FORMER PREMIER and SENATOR



NEW PHOTOGRAPH of PAUL DESCHANDEL, who has just been ELECTED PRESIDENT of the FRENCH REPUBLIC

ALEXANDRE MILLERAND, new PREMIER of FRANCE.



ARISTIDE BRIAND, EX-PREMIER who FORMED the COALITION AGAINST CLEMENCEAU.

By F. CUNLIFFE-OWEN.

WHILE there is universal regret in America that Georges Clemenceau, after his many magnificent services to his native land and to the Entente, should have exposed himself to the affront of defeat in the election for the Chief Magistracy of the republic last week, yet there is matter for congratulation to be found in the fact that the President-elect of France is so old a friend and so warm an admirer of the United States, the sentiments of Paul Deschanel in this respect being shared by Leon Bourgeois, who has just been chosen President of the Senate. Both men are widely known on this side of the Atlantic.

The statesmen who are mainly responsible for having brought about the elevation of Deschanel to the highest office within the reach of a French citizen, namely, Aristide Briand and Louis Barthou, both of them former Premiers, and Edouard Herriot, Mayor of Lyons for so many years, and Minister of Transports and of Military, Naval and Civilian Victroling during the war, have all three given repeated evidence of pronounced leanings toward America.

The change of Cabinet and in the three principal offices of State, namely, those of the President of the republic, of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies, does not involve any impairment of the close and intimate relations between the two sister republics and old time allies.

## Millerand Forms Cabinet.

That this is the case is emphasized by President Poincare's appointment of Alexandre Millerand to form a new Cabinet. It must be borne in mind that although Paul Deschanel was elected a week ago President Poincare's term does not end until February 17. Millerand is the close friend and political associate of Clemenceau, who recommended him to President Poincare as his successor.

Millerand was High Commissioner and Governor-General of Alsace-Lorraine, a post requiring great tact and delicacy, owing to the necessity of reconciling the prerogatives enjoyed by the two provinces while under German domination with the laws prevalent in France. Millerand may be described as the only statesman in the new Cabinet, which is provisional, since it represents the ideas and ideals of Clemenceau and of Poincare rather than those of Deschanel. The members have been selected for their technical attainments and experience rather than their political record.

There are some who assume that the Millerand Cabinet will come to an end with the departure of Poincare and that Deschanel will entrust the formation of a new Cabinet to M. Briand. But it is the Chamber of Deputies rather than the President of the republic that decides whether or not an Administration is to remain in office. Although provisional administrations have sometimes enjoyed unexpectedly long life, yet the very fact that it has been the forces in Parliament that defeated Clemenceau's candidature for the Chief Magistracy would seem to indicate that they will take an early opportunity to supplant the present Millerand administration with one headed by Briand.

So much has been written about Deschanel that all that remains to be done is to fill a few gaps in the information concerning him. While he has never achieved eminence in statesmanship and has carefully refrained from identifying himself with one or another of the

numerous rival political factions, he possesses a remarkable gift for conciliation. He understands, too, in an exceptional degree the management of men.

The Chamber of Deputies is a turbulent assembly, where passions find their expression with a degree of violence unknown among the English speaking races. Yet Deschanel has succeeded in directing its debates and in presiding over the sessions with so much skill, tact and impartiality that he has been maintained in office by well nigh unanimous vote at various elections for nearly twenty-two years.

He is extremely well groomed, with

much charm of manner and of speech. He possesses what may be described as the social graces to a greater degree than any of the previous occupants of the Elysee. Though a member of the academy, and therefore one of France's Forty Immortals, he excels in the art of small talk to women, among whom he has always been a general favorite. He has also won renown in his younger days and even in his middle age as a first rate amateur actor.

Reared in honorable poverty, as son of the eminently witty and popular Prof. Emile Deschanel of the Sorbonne, the President-elect is married to a charming woman of great wealth and much elegance, noted for her beauty as a young girl. She is the daughter of Rene Brice, the wealthy railroad magnate, the dominant element of that great financial institution, the Credit Lyonnais; Deputy of the Ille-et-Vilaine, and she is a granddaughter of the late Camille Bonnet, who was the secretary of the Academy of France.

The Deschanels have several children, who will furnish a note of life and of youthful gaiety to the Palace of the Elysee, to which it has long been a stranger. For both President and Mme. Poincare, President and Mme. Fallieres and President and Mme. Loubet were childless, while President Faure's daughter was grown up when he was elected.

The marriage of the Deschanels has been a happy union. Like President Wilson, they both regard the number 13 as their lucky number. Both celebrated their birthday on the 13th of February. The bride gave her consent to the marriage on the 13th day of the month, and the Christian and surnames of husband and wife are each composed of thirteen letters.

Possessed, through his marriage, of a very large fortune, Deschanel will be in a position to continue at the Elysee the reign of hospitality which he inaugurated at the Petit Bourbon, official residence of the Speaker or President of the Chamber of Deputies. It cannot be said that the Executive Mansion in the Faubourg St. Honore has ever been noted for its brilliancy, in a social sense, since the Presidency of old Marshal MacMahon, Duke of Magenta, who retired from of-

fice after having sacrificed at least half his fortune to maintain the dignity of his position.

True, Mme. Casimir Perier was a notable figure in the great world of Paris. But during her husband's relatively brief tenure of the Presidency, after the assassination of Sadi-Carnot at Lyons, she found herself boycotted by all her relatives and acquaintances of the Faubourg St. Germain. The cleavage between the republican regime and the aristocracy was sharply defined, and it was quickly brought home to Mme. Casimir Perier that her kinsfolk and friends absolutely would not cross the threshold of the Elysee.

To-day that cleavage no longer exists in anything like the same degree. The fashionable set and all the more modern element of the nobility have become reconciled to the republic as the best system of government in France under present circumstances, and the great war has served to still further promote the good will and friendly relations between the formerly warring factions in the political and social systems of France. One more word about Paul Deschanel. Exceptionally good looking, with a clear-

cut profile and conveying the impression of distinction and refinement, one may depend that he will never trespass beyond the restrictions imposed upon the office of Chief Magistrate by the constitution. Well nigh every one of his predecessors has manifested a tendency to assume an amount of authority to which the two houses of the National Legislature did not consider them to be entitled.

Felix Faure, Sadi-Carnot and Marshal MacMahon gave particular offence in this connection; and so did even Emile Loubet. Nor has Raymond Poincare been wholly free from blame in this connection, according to parliamentary critics, who complain that he took too active a part in politics and in problems of defence and of reconstruction instead of contenting himself with a purely ornamental role. Deschanel is so perfectly level headed and so thoroughly a master of himself and is possessed of so much savoir faire and finesse, that he can be depended upon to obtain most of what he wants and to unobtrusively secure the application of his views without exciting any jealousy on the part of Cabinet, of Senate, or of the Chamber of Deputies.

As for Alexandre Millerand, the new

Premier, he will be remembered by all those who took part in or visited the World's Fair in Paris which inaugurated the present century two decades ago, as the presiding genius and president of the Exhibition. He is one of the ablest lawyers in France, has amassed a great fortune, and whereas, in 1890 he undertook the defence of Russian political refugees and suspected conspirators, who had been arrested during the visit of Czar Alexander III. to Paris, we find him eighteen years afterward playing an important part as Cabinet Minister, in devising elaborate measures for police protection for Emperor Nicholas II.

Millerand started, politically speaking, as a Socialist. But there is little, either in his appearance or in his manner, to suggest Socialist affiliations. He is a thorough man of the world, very polished, well bred, and highly educated, and for ten years has specialized in foreign politics. He has a beautiful house in the Avenue de Villars, which is crowded with bibelots, costly pictures and artistic bric-a-brac; is married to a Mlle. Le Vayer; was a friend and ministerial associate of Premier Waldeck-Rousseau, and was a popular and successful Minister of War during part of the great war.

**Bourgeois Close to Wilson.** As for Leon Bourgeois, the new President of the Senate, and consequently the second dignitary of the French Republic in point of rank and precedence, he is, of all the statesmen of his native land, the one who has been in closest sympathy with the aims and views of President Wilson in the matter of the League of Nations, over the first meeting of which in Paris he has just presided.

He has been the principal representative of France at the two Peace Congresses held at The Hague, in 1899 and in 1910, and as such is widely known abroad.

He has held office as Premier, as Minister of Foreign Affairs and as President of the Chamber of Deputies. He may be accredited with American affiliations. For he has been a lecturer on social science at the Institute of Social Sciences under the terms of the will of the late Comte de Chambrun, uncle of that Comte Adelbert de Chambrun, married to Miss Clara Longworth of Cincinnati. Indeed, Bourgeois has occupied until his removal last week, to the official residence of the President of the Senate, in the Palace of Luxembourg, a suite of apartments in the mansion which had been the Parisian home of the late Comte de Chambrun. Through his wife M. de Chambrun had become the principal owner of the world-famous baccarat glass and crystal works and bequeathed his house at his death to the Institute of Social Sciences.

Bourgeois is a gifted man, clever with his pen, with his brush and with his chisel, being a sculptor of no mean skill. He is an enthusiastic violinist, while he has been in the habit whenever in office of enlivening the meetings of the Cabinet and of the Chamber of Deputies by dashing off droll caricatures of his colleagues.

I have seen a number of dainty pastels that bear his signature and he has published a number of books. He is a veteran of the war of 1870. A great traveller, he can boast of an intimate acquaintance with most of the leading statesmen of the Old World and of the New, and has been twice married, his present wife having been successful in bringing about his recovery from that species of melancholia into which he had been plunged by the death of his first wife and a rapid succession of other bereavements.

## The Lion's Head

THE water in a great many public fountains, whether for man or beast, comes out of a lion's mouth. This is said to be the reason:

Among the ancient Egyptians the rising on the waters of the River Nile was the most important event of the year, since it meant life and prosperity to the whole nation. The rising always took place when the sun was in the constellation of Leo, or the lion; so the Egyptians adopted the shape of a lion as the symbol for the life giving waters of the Nile.

## Lore of Numbers, Lucky and Unlucky

IT is a curious fact that various numbers enjoy good reputations while others have always borne evil reputations. Everybody has, of course, heard of 13 as a very unlucky number, and there are many persons, not in other ways superstitious, who cling to the notion that 13 is indeed an evil number.

In Scotland you will find that the number 9 is the unlucky one. There is a historical reason for that, inasmuch as the nine of diamonds was considered the curse of that country. It is said that if a person sees nine magpies in Scotland it is a sign that the worst kind of misfortune is soon to befall him.

Consider the case of the cat-o'-nine-tails, that old instrument of punishment in the navy. It had nine thongs, and was a terrible means of punishment for erring seamen. There are nine crowns in heraldry. Many years ago, when fairies were really considered as living on earth, the witches told people that if they wished to see them they must hunt for nine grains of wheat on a four leaf clover. The old hydra of ancient days had nine heads. Lessons for very long periods are frequently made out for ninety-nine years. When the angels (as given in Milton's "Paradise Lost") were cast out of heaven, they fell for nine days.

According to the cosmogony of medi-

val times there were nine earths, nine heavens, nine rivers of perdition and nine order of angels. These numbers represented a multiple of the trinity and were considered sacred in effect. So, as nine represented perfection, we find that it meant the greatest possible of anything. In that way we get such expressions as "a nine day's wonder," "a cat has nine lives," "nine tailors make a man," &c.

And yet the number 9 was not the only one that had varied and portentous meanings. The Japanese hold that number 1 is the luckiest possible. In farming, for example, they plan to do so much in one day, and what cannot be accomplished is left undone for a while.

Among the early Christians the number 2 had a very evil significance. Inasmuch as hell was made on the second day, along with heaven and earth, our forefathers shunned that digit. It cannot be gained, however we may laugh at the superstitions of people of several centuries ago, that the number 2 has certainly been unlucky for many rulers. We often consider Henry II, George II, and Charles II. as very unfortunate rulers, but they were not as unlucky as James II, Richard II, and Etheldred II, who were all forced to abdicate their thrones, and still greater were the misfortunes of Edward II. and William II, who were murdered, and

Harold II, who was killed in battle.

The figure 4 is considered very lucky by most people, especially by those who believe in the potency of the four leaf clover.

By the Cabalists it was believed that 6 was the supreme number, inasmuch as much of their belief hinged on that number. The Jewish servant always served for six years. The world was said to have been created in six days.

As to number 7, it has been invested with more mystery than all the other numbers put together. We have a septenary division of time; old feasts would last for seven days; Naaman was sent to wash in the Jordan seven times; Elijah sent his servant from Mount Carmel seven times to look for rain, and Jericho was visited for seven days by seven priests with seven trumpets, and on the seventh day they went around the city seven times.

On the other hand there are many people who will have nothing to do with 17 if they can possibly help it. Perhaps this is along the idea that two negatives make an affirmative, the number 1 being considered lucky and also the number 7, but the combination may be considered as producing much strife.

Number 5 is about the only one that has little meaning attached to it by the superstitious.